

BROWNFIELDS NEW HAMPSHIRE Success Stories

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Southwest Region Planning Commission

Success in DES/Grantee Brownfields Partnership

Overview

In 2003, the Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) received a \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The grant supports the development of a program to inventory and assess brownfields sites within 36 contiguous municipalities in southwestern New Hampshire. A

fundamental goal of this project is to characterize the nature of contamination and the level of threat posed by contaminated soil, water and/or structures. Achieving this goal will be a critical first step in remediating environmental hazards and returning derelict or underutilized properties to municipal tax rolls and the regional economy. The N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) is providing technical assistance and support to SWRPC with respect to implementation of SWRPC's work plan.

At A Glance:

Site Locations: Four sites within the SWRPC region

Site Profiles: Former Boston & Maine rail yard, and lumber yard, Keene; Wilder Thermometer Factory, Peterborough.

Brownfields Financial Assistance:

\$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant (2003)

\$316,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant (2005)

History

Redevelopment of abandoned and underutilized industrial properties in the southwest region of New Hampshire during the past two decades has been a cornerstone for village and neighborhood



Former Boston and Maine Railroad property circa 1920, Keene.
values of brownfields and surrounding properties.

revitalization. In some cases, old buildings have provided low-rent space for a variety of new or small businesses, including artisans, high-tech industry, service businesses, office and retail. Others have been demolished and the site redeveloped for community facilities and green space. The SWRPC is confident that the brownfields redevelopment process initiated with the Assessment Grant will lead to job creation, business expansions or start-ups and enhanced property

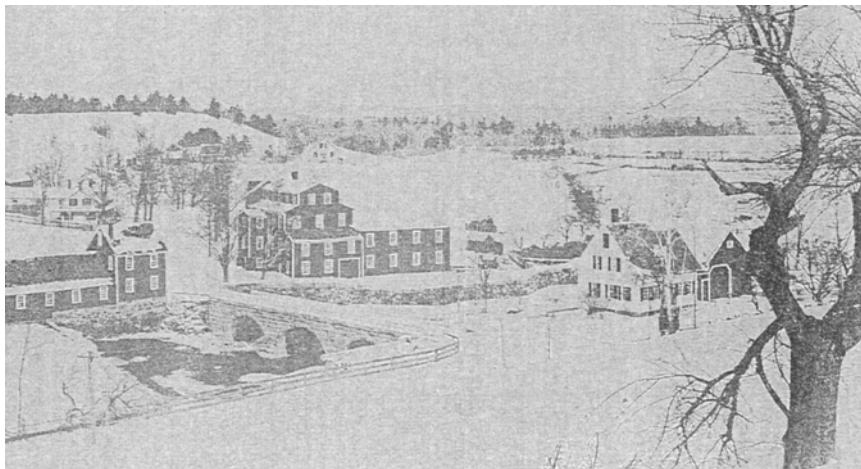
Site Assessment

The Brownfields Advisory Committee of the SWRPC selected several sites for assessment based on criteria such as the property's potential for redevelopment, the potential for job creation through redevelopment, community support for reuse, and the presence of a willing owner or buyer who is not responsible for the contamination. Under the Assessment Grant, the committee focused on Phase I and/or Phase II site assessments performed at four properties: Avilite #4, Marlborough; the former Wilder Thermometer Factory, Peterborough; 124 Water Street, Keene; and the former B&M Railroad property, Keene. Development of cleanup plans is underway at the former Wilder Thermometer factory to remediate the mercury found in the soil.



Former lumber yard building at 124 Water Street, Keene.

SWRPC also successfully competed for a second Brownfields Assessment Grant for petroleum sites in 2005 in the amount of \$158,000. Another assessment grant of \$158,000 was awarded to SWRPC for work on hazardous waste sites.



Former Wilder Thermometer factory, Peterborough.

for DES's Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund. By forming a coalition, DES was able to request more than the \$1 million maximum, and ultimately was awarded \$1.6 million in new funding for the BCRLF. DES believes the Brownfields Assessment Grant Program, along with the BCRLF, will leverage additional resources to solve the environmental problems at a number of these brownfields sites, and facilitate their redevelopment as valuable community resources.

Brownfields Partnerships

DES and SWRPC's partnership was augmented in 2005, when they joined with N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development to pursue additional federal funding

For further assistance please contact the:

Brownfields Program

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